

The Historian

of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

MARCH 1995

WINGED DELIGHTS

Guest speaker at the March luncheon meeting will be Lydia Schultz of Lydia's Audubon Shoppe, whose topic is "Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardens."

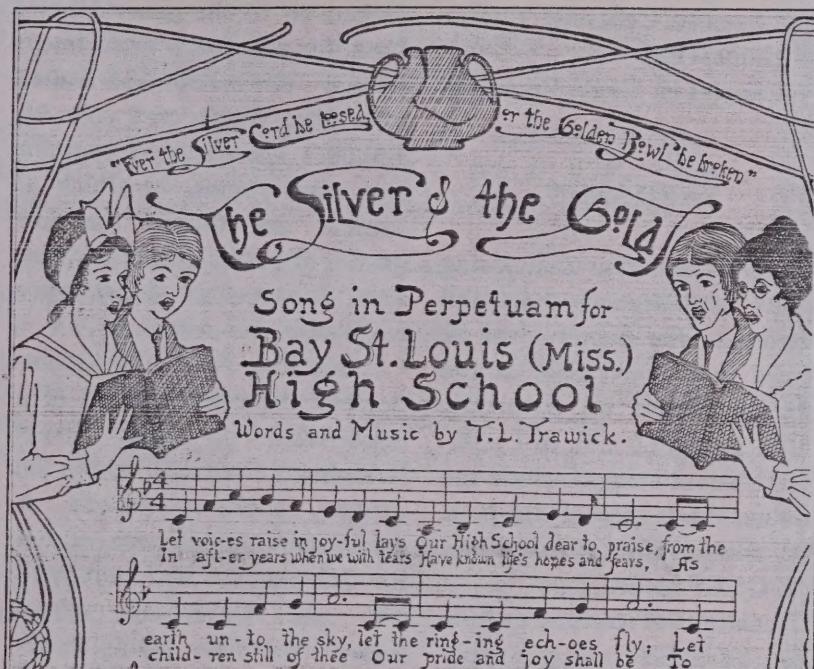
The meeting is set for Thursday the 16th at noon at the Lobrano House on Cue Street, Bay St. Louis.

Please call 467-4090 for reservations, at \$5. Early response is appreciated since we must order and prepare food for lunch.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of Directors of the Hancock County Historical Society has voted to accept an invitation to sponsor the Pearl River County Historical Society as a branch of the Hancock County Historical Society Corporation. Pearl River County was a part of Hancock County until 1890 when it withdrew and became an independent county. Subsequently we have been recording Pearl River County History up to 1890, a project which we will now turn over to the new organization. We also record Harrison County History up to 1841 when it was separated from Hancock County.

Mr. Tom Stevens will head the new group which will have
(Continued on page 2)



Bay High School Alma Mater

Bay Public Schools - 1915

The public schools are not mentioned in one syllable in the city charter, and as our city has not adopted the code charter, schools are only permitted by utterance. Therefore, when, without any precedent, John V. Toulme, Mayor in 1893, set aside the money (\$3,800.00) out of the meager revenues of the city for the purpose of erecting the present school building, he was threatened with indictment, it is said, by the grand jury, for misappropriation of funds. An annex was built very much against the

consent of the majority, during the Edwards' administration, in the early part of 1906 finding money to do it without a floatation of bonds.

The first teacher for Bay St. Louis Public Schools was J. T. Eagan, who taught three sessions, and afterwards was assisted by W. W. Stockstill.

The first graduating class had its commencement in the school building in 1905, witnessed by a large crowd, among whom was Congressman Bowers, who had come from Washington to see his son graduate. All the members of that class
(Continued on page 2)

(President, from page 1)
its headquarters in Poplarville.

Mr. Stevens has worked with us for several months, helping develop our computer system. We are anxious to establish contacts in the northern part of Hancock County to record the areas around old Center, Napoléon, Necaise Crossing, Caesar and Gainesville.

Charles H. Gray, President

YARD SALE

Items left after the closing of our consignment shop and donated to the Society will be offered in a Yard Sale at the Lobrano House on Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Other offerings include the Wooden Boat Show T-shirts at \$10, and copies of **ALONG THE GULF** at \$13.

Donations of items to include in the Yard Sale are gratefully accepted.

Any of you who would like to volunteer to assist at the Yard Sale please call 467-4090.

DUES - DUES - DUES - DUES

Did you remember to pay your dues? If not, please send your \$12 check today. Thanks.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Indians called this area Chicapoula. Incorporated in 1818 as Shieldsboro, the city was officially named Bay St. Louis on March 2, 1875 with B. Sones as Mayor and W. Monet as Secretary.

(School, from page 1)
still survive, and are succeeding. One, Miss Rosetts McGinn, is a faithful teacher of the nine years' service in our school.

In 1913, due to the activities of Mr. R. W. Webb, alderman for the fourth ward, a rider was tacked on to the general bond fund, for a primary department school. The school was named after Mr. Webb, and cost \$4,130.00. The structure contains two main rooms, in which at present are taught the five grades of public school curriculum. Ninety-eight students are enrolled in this school.

Alderman R. W. Taylor undertook the establishment of a department on Julia Street (Leonhard Avenue?), where the primary grades are taught. A commodious house was rented for this purpose and converted into an improvised school where over sixty young hopefuls daily attend. A Mothers' Club, together with the teacher has ornamented the walls and provides fresh flowers.

The school should be a human nursery, where ideas grow, and where individualities flourish. We look with disfavor upon any tendency to stereotype the school, at the cost of originality, the power of initiative, and the sense of responsibility in the life of the child. We stand for a school that will develop a reading, thinking, working, serving people, who act for themselves, and challenge the right of any man to do their thinking for them. (From Catalog of Public Schools and Official City Directory of Bay St. Louis, 1915).

SEMINOLE INDIANS

Ar ound the middle of the last century an Alabama contractor made an agreement with the U. S. government to transport the Indians from the Alabama-Georgia area to the Territory of Oklahoma.

In order to do this with the least expense he hit upon the idea of carrying them by barge down the rivers of Alabama into the Gulf and on into Lake Pontchartrain. There they were marched from the Lake to the Mississippi River, and again transported upstream to Scotts Bluff or some other Arkansas landing place and from there marched on foot to Oklahoma Territory.

This, however was a long trying journey so he decided to make Cat Island a staging area or railway stop on the route. On one of his trips with the Seminole Indians sickness broke out suddenly while they were at Cat Island, and many of the Seminoles died.

It is not known whether he used it as an excuse or was really scared when the medicine man said the sickness was the anger of the Spirits for leaving their homeland. They refused to go to Oklahoma. The best the contractor could do was get them to go back to Florida where they disappeared in the impenetrable Everglades, their descendants being there still. (From Down South, July-Aug 1961).

PATRONIZE THE
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CIVIL WAR DAYS - HANCOCK COUNTY AND VICINITY
COMPILED AND EDITED BY CLYDE CUCULLU
MEMBER - HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Acting Master Francis H. Grove commanding Yacht Corypheus on Lake Pontchartrain to Commodore H.H. Bell, comdg. West Gulf Blockading Squadron.

In obedience to your orders of the 14th inst. directing me to cooperate with the USS Commodore, Actg. Master John R. Hamilton commanding, in destroying the "Tannery" working for the Rebel Army situated at Bay St. Louis, Miss.:

On the morning of the 14th inst. at 11 A.M. sailed from Lakeport for Fort Pike; arrived at 2 P.M.; at 8 P.M. the U.S.S. Commodore took us in tow (the wind being light).

At daylight of the 15th inst., being close to Bay St. Louis, the U.S.S. Commodore cast us off. Made sail and stood into the Bay taking a position to the westward of the place agreed on for landing, the U.S.S. Commodore taking her position to the eastward to cover the landing party. Sent an armed boats crew in command of Mr. Gregory, Ex. Officer, to assist in landing troops from the U.S.S. Commodore.

After landing, the troops and boats crews started for the scene of action at double quick and I shortly had the satisfaction of seeing the smoke and flames arising from the woods in which the place was situated.

At 8 A.M., the party returned, having completely destroyed the buildings, vats and a mill for grinding bark, also a large amount of hides stored there said to be worth twenty thousand dollars. I am sorry we could not bring the hides off but the place being one mile from the landing and we having no means of transportation, there was no recourse but to destroy them.

During these operations the Enemy did not molest us in any way nor did they show themselves. I learned from some refugees who sought our protection (and were brought away on the U.S.S. Commodore) that there was a Company of Cavalry stationed there but they thought it prudent to leave on our approach.

Having re-embarked the party, we started for Fort Pike, the wind strong from the S.W. Did not arrive until midnight.



THE SILVER AND THE GOLD
by
T. L. TRAWICK

The song shown to the left appeared in the Catalog of the City Schools of Bay Saint Louis, Miss. 1915. Mr. Trawick was president of the School Board and he compiled rules governing the school, a teachers' creed and rules for personal behavior for both pupils and teachers. An example from the teachers creed is "We believe that fear is born of demons and tiger-hate is of the jungle, but that a conscience, void of offense to all men, should love the world into an Utopia."

he Silver's the Gold
Song in Perpetuum for
Bay St. Louis (Miss.)
High School

Words and Music by T.L.Trawick.



LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

Mon.	8 to 4	Thu.	8 to 4
Tue.	8 to 4	Fri.	2 to 4
Wed.	2 to 4		

The Historian

Of Hancock County
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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